

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 01542 272234Z

21

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 1542

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PINT, SCUL

SUBJ: NEW DEAN OF UCHILE LAW SCHOOL

1. SUMMARY. PROMINENT CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDC) PERSONALITY MAXIMO PACHECO HAS BEEN FORCED OUT OF JOB AS UNIVERSITY OF CHILE LAW SCHOOL DEAN. ACCORDING TO PDC SOURCES PACHECO'S DEPARTURE ENGINEERED BY RIGHT-WING ELEMENTS IN SCHOOL. PDC, HOWEVER, GENERALLY PLEASED ABOUTS ITS POSITION IN UCHILE AND ESPECIALLY POWER OF PDC PRO-RECTOR ENRIQUE D'ETIGNY. END SUMMARY.

2. MAXIMO PACHECO FORMER FREI GOVT AMBASSADOR TO USSR AND MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SUBMITTED RESIGNATION LAST WEEK AS DEAN OF UCHILE LAW SCHOOL UPON REQUEST OF RECTOR-DELEGATE RETIRED FACH CINC CESAR RUIZ. PACHECO IS MOST PROMINENT PDC FIGURE TO BE ELIMINATED FROM POSITION OF INFLUENCE IN UCHILE SINCE IMMEDIATE POST-COUP FIRING OF RECTOR EDGARDO BOENINGER ALONG WITH RECTORS ALL OTHER CHILEAN UNIVERSITIES.

3. PDC SOURCES HAVE CLAIMED TO EMBOFF THAT PACHECO'S DEMISE AS DEAN (HE WILL CONTINUE AS PROFESSOR) ENGINEERED BY RIGHT-WING MEMBERS OF LAW SCHOOL TEACHING STAFF HEADED BY MIGUEL OTERO. OTERO AND OTHERS REPORTEDLY PUSHED REORGNIZATION OF SCHOOL AND WERE ABLE TO LINE UP ENOUGH SUPPORT TO MAKE IT NECESSARY FOR RECTOR-DELEGATE RUIZ TO ASK FOR PACHECO'S

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PAGE 02 SANTIA 01542 272234Z

RESIGNATION. PDC SOURCES, HOWEVER, NOT PARTICULARLY UPSET BY

EVENTS. THEY ARGUE THAT NEW DEAN, ANTONIO BASCUNAN VALDES, APPOINTED BY RUIZ IS YOUNG, ENERGETIC AND, THOUGH NOT A PDC MEMBER, IS MORE "PROGRESSIVE" THAN PACHECO'S OPPONENTS.

4. PDC SOURCES ADDED THAT THEY VIEW PARTY'S POSITION AT UCHILE AS GENERALLY GOOD. PDC DEANS OF CONSTITUENT COLLEGES HELD ON TO POSITIONS AFTER COUP. OTHER PDC FIGURES MOVED INTO ADMINISTRATIVE JOBS VACATED BY UP SUPPORTERS. ENRIQUE D'ETIGNY, WHO WAS APPOINTED BY RUIZ AS PRO-RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY, IS WELL-KNOWN PDC FIGURE AND HAS EFFECTIVE DAY-TO-DAY CONTROL OVER UNIVERSITY'S ADMINISTRATION. ON STUDENT SIDE, THOUGH UNIVERSITY-WIDE STUDENT FEDERATION (FECH) NOT FUNCTIONING, INDIVIDUAL COLLEGE STUDENT ASSOCIATIONS ARE STILL OPERATING, MOST UNDER PRE-COUP ELECTED PDC LEADERSHIP.

5. PDC SOURCES CHARACTERIZE RUIZ AS A MODERATE WHO HAS AVOIDED "WITCH HUNTS" SUCH AS THOSE AT OTHER CHILEAN UNIVERSITIES AND HAS NOT CAPITULATED TO RIGHT-WING ADVISERS AS THEY CLAIM CATHOLIC U RECTOR-DELEGATE SWETT HAS (SEPTEL). RUIZ HAS ALSO REPORTEDLY BEEN WILLING TO TAKE STRONG POSITIONS ON QUESTIONS OF UNIVERSITY AUTONOMY AND FUNCTION AGAINST OTHERS IN GOVT, NOTABLY HARDLINING MINEDUCATION CASTRO. PDC FEARS THAT RUIZ' MODERATION WILL EVENTUALLY EARN HIM HONORIFIC AMBASSADORIAL POSITION AS FORM OF POLITE EXILE. LATTER POSSIBILITY HAS ALREADY BEEN MENTIONED IN SANTIAGO PRESS.
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